

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:08 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations and Discussion of Newly Filed Litigation: Matthew Records v. EGSC, KC-2016-1139. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Mr. Michael Fain, Mr. Stuart Peterson, and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Attorney John Lynch, 600 Tollgate Road, Warwick stated that he is

representing Matthew Records in the pending court case regarding the Head Coach Boys' Basketball position at EGHS. Attorney Lynch noted that he reviewed the policies/procedures on the district website and found it difficult to find the process for hiring coaches. He stated that Mr. Records' feels most qualified based on his win/loss record and being named a two-time coach of the year. Attorney Lynch said his client feels the information given to the Superintendent is misleading and thinks Mr. Cobain has a personal vendetta against him. Attorney Lynch questioned the complaints against Mr. Records. He asked the Chair not to accept the recommended appointment and to recommend Matthew Records for the position.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for November 1, 2016

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Peterson for his hard work during his brief tenure on the Committee. He expressed his gratitude for his service and the work that he has accomplished. He hopes Mr. Peterson will serve in other committee roles in the district. The swearing in ceremony has been confirmed for Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Swift Community Center. Dr. Mercurio unofficially welcomed new members Dr. Lori McEwen and Mr. Jeff Dronzek to the Committee and said he looks forward to working with and learning from them. The Commissioner will visit Cole for an open discussion

on November 29, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Plain echoed Dr. Mercurio's comments regarding Mr. Peterson and hopes he will continue to serve. Ms. Mark also echoed Dr. Mercurio's comments and thanked him for his leadership in many areas including finance and transportation. Ms. Mark also welcomed the new members to the Committee.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Resignation-Asst Coach Football-EGHS-Andrew Butler

On a motion by Mr. Plain, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

b. Appointments

1. Paraprofessional-1.0 FTE-Meadowbrook-Sandra St. Dennis

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

2. Custodian- 0.5 FTE-EGHS-James Byrne

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

3. Adaptive PE Teacher-0.3 FTE-Cole-Pamela Macnie-One Year Only

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

4. Head Coach Boys' Basketball-Cole-Pat Dame

5. Head Coach Girls' Basketball-Cole-Gary Faragalli

6. Asst Coach Girls' Indoor Track-EGHS-Latif Thomas

7. Head Coach Girls' Basketball-EGHS-Tori Ahrens

- 8. Asst Coach Girls' Basketball-EGHS-Len Palizza**
- 9. Head Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Sean Fahey**
- 10. Asst Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Don Dunwoody**
- 11. Volunteer Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Justin Carlson**
- 12. Volunteer Asst Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Jack Nolan**
- 13. Head Coach Boys' Indoor Track-EGHS-Peter Dion**
- 14. Head Coach Girls' Indoor Track-EGHS-Nick Ross**
- 15. Head Coach Boys' Basketball-EGHS-Don Bowen**
- 16. Asst Coach Football-EGHS-Dan Miner**

Mrs. Winters made a motion to approve appointments #4-16. Mr. Fain seconded the motion. Mr. Plain asked the Athletic Director to explain the process for appointments. In particular, he asked for the process used for the EGHS Head Coach Boys' Basketball position since there is a change in the name for appointment. Mr. Cobain explained the process, which starts with sending a request for a posting to Rose Emilio in the central office. The position is then posted internally and externally on SchoolSpring. Mr. Cobain and another administrator select the candidates to interview based on the credentials and experience needed for the position. Five candidates were contacted and interviews scheduled. Mr. Cobain drafted the questions and had a second administrator review them. The Committee met prior to the interviews to discuss the candidates, process, and questions. The interview committee consisted of five members, including administrators, athletic trainer, and a community member familiar with the sport. A scale of 1-5 was used to rate responses. Six job specific questions and three questions, which

assess presentation, were asked of all candidates. All candidates were asked the same questions. Responses were rated/scored, and discussed. Mr. Cobain said the candidate who receives the highest score always moves forward as the “recommended applicant.” Mr. Cobain then recommended the best candidate to the Superintendent for appointment by the School Committee. Mr. Cobain noted the size of the interview panel is larger when there is a higher profile coaching position. If the position is “low profile,” such as an assistant coach, Mr. Cobain may ask the head coach to sit in on the interviews. After discussion, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

17. Student Enrollment/Strategic Support Mentoring Secretary-Part Time-Wendy Smith-Central Office

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

c. Approval of trip: Ski Club Trip-EGHS-Stowe, Vermont-1/20/17-1/22/17

Stephan Toljan (EGHS student) gave a brief overview of the itinerary.

On a motion by Mr. Plain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the trip pending adult chaperones.

VIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Building Committee

Mr. Fain gave a summary of the meeting that took place on November 4th. After the stage one information was submitted, RIDE asked for additional information including a full architectural feasibility study (for stage two). This study is due to RIDE by

February 9, 2017. Vendors have been vetted and are listed on the Master Price Agreement (MPA). The architectural/engineering study will cost approximately \$60,000. RIDE has released a “Schoolhouse Energy Report Card,” which is an energy assessment of 307 schools in Rhode Island. RIDE is looking for schools to become “green” self-sustaining structures. A presentation will need to be made to the Town Council to discuss short-term and long-term projects.

b. Transportation Subcommittee

The Committee met last week with Leslie Davis (Versatrans) and Cindy Shoesmith (Ocean State Transit) to review the routing process and see if Versatrans could offer any additional support. The Committee will meet again next week to discuss the financial aspects of two-tier for next year and discuss whether the district should go back to three tiers. Mr. Peterson discussed how Versatrans and Safe Stop routes/times were not matching up. A number of recommendations were made to Cindy Shoesmith. She will see if the recommendations make sense or will be problematic. Five out of eighty-five routes are running at forty-five minutes. Mr. Plain asked if the Transportation Subcommittee could have a refresher of the Charge of the Committee. The Transportation Subcommittee is to make recommendations to the Finance Committee, who will make recommendations to the School Committee.

IX. Discussion

a. Teaching and Learning: ESSA update

Dr. Mercurio provided an overview of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind. The general public will be

given multiple opportunities to weigh in on the ESSA state plan including input forums, surveys, forums to give suggestions, and a public comment period. Scheduled forums will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on November 2nd at Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex; November 9th at Lincoln Middle School; November 14th at Coventry High School; November 17th at Portsmouth High School, and November 21st at South Kingstown High School. Mr. Podraza participates in the monthly group that provides input to RIDE.

b. Quarterly Financial Report

Mrs. Wilcox provided a quarterly snapshot for all. The district is four months (38%) into the fiscal year and has expended 37.5% of the budget. It was noted the projected deficit is \$1,350,293 (not \$1,390,293). Projected expenditures from today to the end of the fiscal year are listed at \$24,566,885. Incurring costs (noted in red) are the unexpected costs (i.e. health benefits for added positions). The largest line items are compensation and out of district placements for unanticipated students. Dr. Mercurio explained the budget is frozen until further notice unless purchases are needed for direct student services or necessary for the curriculum. Dr. Mercurio said this is the largest deficit he has seen at this point in any school year. He said the budget freeze would not make up the budget shortfall. He expressed concerns regarding the deficit and future withdrawals from fund balance. Mr. Peterson said the district is already above the “ask” for next year (\$1.35 million). David Sienko at RIDE was contacted about the costs associated with the high volume of special education placements. Dr. Mercurio said RISSA would like to

discuss the costs of DCYF placement. Dr. Mercurio discussed the possibility of looking into a consortium for a long-term solution. Ms. Mark asked Mr. Wilson to investigate long-term solutions to keep students in district.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY